

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P 250856Z MAY 78

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2424

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0560

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CG

SUBJECT: SHABAN DEVELOPMENTS - MAY 25

1. KOLWEZI: GECAMINES DELEGATES VISITED KOLWEZI ON MAY 24. \$HEAD OF GROUP REPORTED THAT RED CROSS HAS BEGUN BURYING CORPSES. THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED DEATHS AMONG THE EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY IS NOW ESTIMATEPQAT 73. GECAMINES DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ITS INSTALLATIONS WERE AS SERIOUSLY DAMAGED AS IT HAD FIRST THOUGHT. PRINCIPAL LOSSES INCLUDE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT AT THEIR WORKSHOPS. THERE HAS BEEN SOME FLOODING OF THE MINES, BUT THE SITUATION WAS DESCRIBED AS "NOT CATASTROPHIC. A SPECIAL TELEPHONE CONNECTION HAS BEEN INSTALLED WITH KOLWEZI WHICH WILL PERMIT TWICE DAILY CONTACT WITH LUBUMBASHI.

2. SECURITY OF OTHER SHABAN TOWNS: THE CONTINGENT OF 40 LEGIONNAIRES WHICH HAD MOVED INTO LIKASI, ON THE EVENING OF MAY 23, SPENT THE MORNING OF MAY 24 MAKING THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN BY DRIVING AROUND THE TOWN. THE CONTINGENT PLANNED TO LEAVE THAT AFTERNOON FOR A
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SIMILAR SHOW OF FORCE IN LUBUMBASHI, BUT WAS PERSUADED BY WORRIED LIKASI RESIDENTS TO RETAIN A SMALL GROUP OF SIX LEGIONNAIRES IN SHABAS SECOND LARGEST TOWN. THE REMAINING GROUP ARRIVED IN LUBUMBASHI IN THE AFTER NOON. THEY DROVE THEIR JEEPS SLOWLY THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE TOWN ON THE MORNING OF MAY 25 PROVIDING NOTICE TO ALL OF THEIR PRESENCE. THEY WILL GO TO KIPUSHI IN THE

AFTERNOON FOR A SIMILAR SHOW. THEIR ACTIVITIES
HAVE PROVIDED A DEGREE OF
REASSURANCE TO PEOPLE WHO OBSERVE THEIR
PRESENCE, BUT ARE UNAWARE HOW FEW THEIR NUMBER, HOW
THIN THEY'RE SPREAD, AND HOW INADQUATE THEIR
COMMUNICATIONS. DURING THE
AFTERNOON OF MAY 24 A SMALL GROUP OF BELGIAN
PARATROOPERS LED BY A MAJOR ARRIVED IN LUBUMBASHI

TO SUPPLEMENT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE FRENCH.

3. ZAMBIAN BORDER. THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE AT THE
KASUMBALESA BORDER POST HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN
ACCIDENTAL. SODIZMIZA REPORTED HOWEVER THAT THERE ARE
STILL PROBLEMS FOR PEOPLE TRYING TO CROSS THE BORDER.
BORG

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